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# American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch Records

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# American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch records

## Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections  
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114  
1300 North Campus Drive  
Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: 605-688-5094  
Email: [arcrefs@sdstate.edu](mailto:arcrefs@sdstate.edu)

## Collection Summary

### *Identifier*

MA 15

### *Title*

American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch records

### *Creator*

American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch

### *Dates*

1935-2007

### *Extent*

1.26 linear feet -- 3 document cases, photographs

### *Language*

English

### *Repository*

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M.  
Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Access note*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

### *Preferred Citation*

*Name of item.* American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch records. MA 15. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Abstract*

American Association of University Women [AAUW] is an organization that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. Their commitment to their mission is reflected through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, we advance equity for women and girls. The collection is composed of official records of the American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch's activities, including reports, minutes, newsletters, programs, bylaws and correspondence.

## **Historical Note**

In 1931, with 37 members, the Brookings Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) came into being under the presidency of Miss Gertrude Young. However, it was not until 1950, after much effort on the part of the members, that the national group granted current and retroactive membership to all women holding degrees from SDSC.

Throughout the years, activities have been many and varied. One of the first programs was the promotion of a kindergarten. The branch operated and supported a private kindergarten in the basement of the city library from 1932 until 1941 when it was incorporated into the public school system. During World War II, the branch was active in projects to aid the war effort. Members helped distribute gas and sugar rationing cards, did Red Cross work and aided in salvaging materials such as paper and tin cans. Over the years, contributions to the National Fellowship Fund have been made regularly with the branch earning the money through many projects including bridge benefits, style shows, benefit movies, and through the selling of maps, engagement pads, books, calendars, and note cards.

Scholarship and fellowship programs have been of vital concern over the years. A small fellowship to a State College girl in the junior class started the local program. In 1962, the program was replaced with one that awarded a scholarship to a senior in high school and one to an incoming senior at South Dakota State College. In 1964, after the death of Miss Gertrude Young, the names of the local scholarships were changed to the Gertrude Young - AAUW Scholarships to honor the memory of the first president of the Brookings branch.

Over the years, study groups were developed and became more and more important. In 1954, three groups - child study, money management, and international relations - joined two established groups - music and crafts. In 1963-64, a new structure was imposed on the study approach. The groups since then have centered in four interests areas - community problems, cultural interests, education and world problems. Many action programs have been the result of these study groups and other special concerns of the members. Some of these have been supporting educational television, promoting books and magazines distributed in foreign countries, and a resolution proposing a room for retarded and emotionally handicapped children in local school systems. Study groups have also concerned themselves with problems in urban space, consumer education, innovations and crises in education and values in society, science and the arts. Interest has also centered on the legislative process, particularly in the areas of education and women's rights.

## **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into four series:

Series 1. Administrative

Series 2. General

Series 3. Newsletters

Series 4. Programs

Folders are arranged alphabetically within each series.

## **Contents Note**

This collection is composed of official records of the American Association of University Women, Brookings Branch's activities, including reports, minutes, newsletters, programs, bylaws and correspondence. No series is complete.

The administrative series is composed of annual reports, bylaws, financial and fund raising reports, minutes and suggestions for the president. The Minutes include minutes from regular meetings and executive board meetings. These also include member lists and reports of some projects that were worked on by the organization.

The general series is composed of accreditation material, clippings, correspondence, items from projects and study groups, a history of the Brookings branch, and a scrapbook. The history of the Brookings branch include information on how the branch was started in Brookings and includes biographies of Vivian Volstorff, a member who was instrumental in getting the

branch accredited and Gertrude Stickney Young, the group's first president. The material identified as scrapbook, was found in a scrapbook, but was dismantled for preservation purposes.

The newsletters are composed of various newsletters published by the Brookings Branch American Association of University Women.

The programs are composed of programs for events the Brookings Branch American Association of University Women.

## **Key Words**

American Association of University Women. Brookings Branch

Volstorff, Vivian V., 1912-2002

Young, Gertrude Stickney, 1884-1965

Women -- South Dakota -- Brookings -- Societies and clubs

Women college graduates -- South Dakota -- Brookings

## **Administrative Information**

### *Conditions Governing Access*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

Researchers conducting extensive research are asked to make an advance appointment to access archival material. Please call or e-mail prior to visiting the collection and indicate as much detail as possible about a particular topic and intended use.

South Dakota State University supports access to the materials, published and unpublished, in its collections. Nonetheless, access to some items may be restricted as a result of their fragile condition or by contractual agreements with donors.

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ultimately the responsibility of the researcher to properly use copyrighted material.

*Arranged and Described by*

Crystal J. Gamradt, 1998 July 20, additions were made 2008 July 25.

## Container List

Series	Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1. Administrative	1	1	Annual reports	1941-1958
1. Administrative	1	2	Annual reports	1980-1989
1. Administrative	1	3	Bylaws	1948, 1981-1983
1. Administrative	1	4	Financial	1954-1993
1. Administrative	1	5	Minutes	1935-1941
1. Administrative	1	6	Minutes	1936-1943
1. Administrative	1	7	Minutes	1940-1947
1. Administrative	1	8	Minutes	1973-1982
1. Administrative	1	9	Minutes	1982-1985
1. Administrative	1	10	Minutes	1985-1990
1. Administrative	1	11	Minutes	1998, 2003-2004

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1. Administrative	1	16	Bylaws	1992-1997
1. Administrative	2	1	Suggestions for the president	1954-1965
1. Administrative	2	17	Affiliate agreement	2004
1. Administrative	2	19	Budget	2002-2006
2. General	1	12	Officer information	1995-1998
2. General	1	13	Member survey	2004
2. General	1	14	Membership	1996
2. General	1	15	Membership award	1985
2. General	2	2	Accreditation	undated
2. General	2	3	News Clippings	1969-1992
2. General	2	4	Collected booklets, pamphlets, flyers	1944-1993
2. General	2	5	Correspondence	1947, 1963, 1969
2. General	2	6	Correspondence	1985-1986, 1988-1990, 1992-1993
2. General	2	7	Correspondence	undated
2. General	2	8	History of Brookings Branch	1963-1991
2. General	2	9	Luncheon and Gift Basket Auction	2007
2. General	2	10	Member funeral programs	1991-1992
2. General	2	11	Photographs	1981, undated
2. General	2	12	Projects and study groups	1968-1998
2. General	2	13	Scrapbook (folder 1 of 2)	1953-1972
2. General	2	14	Scrapbook (folder 2 of 2)	1953-1972
2. General	2	16	Beacon	1996-2004
2. General	2	18	Brochure and button	2001, undated
2. General	2	20	Correspondence	2001-2005, undated
2. General	2	21	Fundraisers	1998-2005
2. General	3	10	News clippings	1995-1998

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
2. General	3	11	Policies and strategic plan	1989, 1996
2. General	3	13	Events	1995-1998
3. Newsletters	2	15	The Beacon	1985-1991
3. Newsletters	3	1	Brookings Branch	1955, 1975, 1981
3. Newsletters	3	2	Brookings Branch Gazette	1974
3. Newsletters	3	9	News	1999
4. Programs	3	3	Program Books	1946-1947
4. Programs	3	4	Program Books	1956-1957
4. Programs	3	5	Program Books	1964-1970
4. Programs	3	6	Program Books	1970-1975
4. Programs	3	7	Program Books	1977-1987
4. Programs	3	8	Program Books	1987-1993
4. Programs	3	12	Program books	1994-2005
5. SD AAUW	3	14	Executive Board files	1998-2004
5. SD AAUW	3	15	Dimensions - newsletter	2003
5. SD AAUW	3	16	Minutes	2002
5. SD AAUW	3	17	Bylaws	1996-2003
5. SD AAUW	3	18	Policies	1996